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| AP Government and Politics Exam | Team Ecstasy | |
| Anya Williams *(Research the answers to the multiple choice*  *questions- 60)*  Indie Rosen *(Developing four essay questions and outline*  *how to answer each of the questions)*  Julianne Lee *(Format the exam for distribution)*  Sydney Spicer *(Develop multiple choice questions- 60)* | | 2011 |

AP GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Section I

Time—45 minutes

60 Questions

**Directions:** Complete each of the following questions by selecting the best answer in each case out of the five suggested answers or completions and then fill in the corresponding oval on the answer sheet.

1. The political ideology of a presidential

appointee is important because he

(A) must often work with radical groups.

(B) affects how the laws are interpreted.

(C) is usually bound by specific directives.

(D) is aligned with congressional

ideology.

(E) typically has strong party ties.

2. The view that money, expertise, prestige,

and so forth are widely scattered

throughout our society in the hands of a

variety of groups is known as the

(A) pluralist view of American society.

(B) economic theory of democracy.

(C) elitist view of American society.

(D) dispersed power theory of American

politics.

(E) monetary displacement theory of

American politics.

3. The logical place to begin the study of

how power is distributed in U.S. politics

is

(A) the Constitutional Convention and

events leading up to it.

(B) your local town hall or courthouse.

(C) the day-to-day lives of Americans.

(D) the pages of this morning’s newspaper.

(E) the Civil War.

4. The conditions attached to grants are by

far the most important federal restriction

on state action because

(A) the Tenth Amendment amplifies their

effect.

(B) they can change, depending upon the

size of the state.

(C) they are not subject to review in the

courts.

(D) state officials play a major role in

their interpretation.

(E) the typical state depends for a quarter

or more of its budget on federal grants.

5. The goal of the American Revolution was

(A) equality.

(B) stability.

(C) fairness.

(D) liberty.

(E) fraternity.

6. An “unalienable” right is

(A) supported by a majority of any

society.

(B) created by legislators.

(C) based in a written constitution.

(D) without restriction.

(E) based on nature and Providence.

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7. The original purpose of the Constitutional

Convention was to

(A) draw up a bill of rights.

(B) discuss regulations on intrastate

commerce.

(C) levy taxes.

(D) build an army.

(E) revise the Articles of Confederation.

8. Which of the following liberties was

included in the Constitution before the

Bill of Rights was added?

(A) *Habeas corpus*

(B) Freedom of speech

(C) Right to petition the government for

redress of grievances

(D) Right to bear arms

(E) Protection from double jeopardy

9. “Campaigning” has largely become

synonymous with

(A) fundraising.

(B) mobilization.

(C) triangulation.

(D) clarification.

(E) polarizing.

10. Until about 1890 ballots were printed by

the

(A) candidates.

(B) House of Representatives

(C) state legislatures.

(D) political parties.

(E) local government.

11. The terms liberal and conservative are

\_\_\_\_ political elites.

(A) irrelevant to

(B) somewhat irrelevant to

(C) avoided by

(D) very meaningful for

(E) consistently misunderstood by

12. The Great Compromise…

(A) required Supreme Court justices to

be confirmed by the Senate.

(B) based House representation on

population and Senate population on

equality.

(C) solved the conflict between those

who wanted a powerful House and

those who did not.

(D) provided that the President be

selected by the electoral college.

(E) dealt with, without mentioning the

name, “slavery.”

13. Religious diversity in the United States

was largely the result of the absence of

a(n)

(A) established religion.

(B) bill of rights.

(C) strong central government.

(D) established aristocracy.

(E) powerful army.

14. Which of the following is a valence

issue rather than a position issue?

(A) Legal access to abortion

(B) Nuclear disarmament

(C) Civil rights legislation

(D) Wasted tax dollars

(E) All of the above

15. Decentralization of political authority in

the United States is chiefly promoted by

(A) the legal community.

(B) federalism.

(C) nationalism.

(D) the church.

(E) the mass media.

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16. The first political party was organized by

(A) the followers of Hamilton.

(B) the followers of Jefferson.

(C) farmers and Revolutionary War

soldiers.

(D) the Danbury Baptists.

(E) federalist newspapermen.

17. All of the following are examples of

liberal public-interest law firms except

the

(A) American Civil Liberties Union.

(B) Asian American Legal Defense Fund.

(C) NAACP Legal Defense and

Education Fund.

(D) Criminal Justice Legal Foundation.

(E) Women’s Legal Defense Fund.

18. Probably the best measure of an interest

group’s ability to influence legislators

and bureaucrats is

(A) the size of the membership.

(B) the dollar amount of its contributions.

(C) the occupational sketch of its

members.

(D) its organization skill.

(E) its contacts.

19. The classic research on the Monetary

Control Bill suggest we should be

cautious in how we think about polling

results because, in some instances,

respondents will

(A) supports measures that are only

beneficial to them.

(B) express opinions about things that do

not even exist.

(C) favor state over federal legislation.

(D) not answer questions that they feel

are “threatening.”

(E) share their opinions, but only if they

are positive.

20. For a public official in the United States

to win a libel suit against the press, he or

she must prove that

(A) what was printed was untrue.

(B) the material was untrue and was

printed maliciously.

(C) the material caused “emotional

duress.”

(D) his or her privacy was violated.

(E) the printing of the material in

question has done “substantial harm”

to the public interest.

21. More than half of the delegates at the

1984 Democratic national conventions

are

(A) chosen randomly at state

conventions.

(B) handpicked by the expected

presidential nominee.

(C) females who are candidates in state

and local elections.

(D) elected officials who are supported

by unions.

(E) drawn from the ranks of the AFL-

CIO, the National Education

Association and the National

Organization for Women.

22. Interest-group ratings can be helpful

sources of information but can be

problematic because of

(A) the costs of obtaining the results.

(B) constant change in group

membership.

(C) a lack of participation by members

of Congress.

(D) bias in arbitrary measurement and

assessment.

(E) lack of public interest.

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23. The emphasis the media places on its

role as “scorekeeper” might come at the

cost of attention to

(A) which candidates are not viable.

(B) which candidates might be gaining

momentum.

(C) who is actually ahead.

(D) the horse race.

(E) policies.

24. Which of the following presidents first

made his press secretary a major

instrument for dealing with the press?

(A) Herbert Hoover

(B) Franklin Roosevelt

(C) Dwight Eisenhower

(D) John F. Kennedy

(E) Ronald Reagan

25. Which of the following is probably the

least likely to be elected president?

(A) A current member of the Senate

(B) A former member of Congress

(C) A governor

(D) A military hero

(E) A vice-president

26. Each member of the House usually

serves on \_\_\_ standing committees.

(A) 2

(B) 3

(C) 4

(D) 6

(E) 7

27. Which of the following is required in

order to propose a constitutional

amendment?

(A) Simple resolution

(B) Concurrent resolution

(C) Parallel resolution

(D) Joint resolution

(E) A and B

28. In the House, the most important

position is the

(A) majority leader.

(B) manager.

(C) Speaker.

(D) president pro tempore.

(E) floor leader.

29. Bills contain a large number of “riders”

are known as “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ bills.”

(A) Loaded

(B) Constituency

(C) Valentine

(D) Dry ice

(E) Christmas Tree

30. Most categories of pork spending have

\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the last ten or fifteen years.

(A) decreased

(B) remained at approximately the same

levels

(C) increased

(D) slightly increased

(E) dramatically increased

31. Originally, filibusters were sixteenth

century were

(A) auctioneers.

(B) lawyers.

(C) salesmen.

(D) cavalrymen.

(E) pirates.

32. Which organizational structure runs the

risk of isolating or misinforming the

president?

(A) Pyramid

(B) Circular

(C) Ad Hoc

(D) Titular

(E) Vertical

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33. Until 1913 senators were

(A) popularly elected.

(B) picked by state legislators.

(C) appointed by state governors.

(D) selected by the state judiciaries.

(E) elected by the electoral college.

34. Which amendment formally limited

presidents to two terms?

(A) 9th

(B) 10th

(C) 17th

(D) 22nd

(E) 26th

35. Today, winning the presidency means a

candidate must get \_\_\_\_ electoral votes.

(A) 100

(B) 170

(C) 250

(D) 270

(E) 538

36. Of the three audiences that the president

confronts, the one that is most often

important for maintaining and exercising

power is

(A) other politicians and leaders in

Washington.

(B) the mass public throughout the

nation.

(C) party activists.

(D) foreign leaders.

(E) officeholders outside Washington.

37. Once in office a president can expect to

see his popularity

(A) increase over time.

(B) remain about the same.

(C) fluctuate in a manner that admits of

no generalization.

(D) decline over time.

(E) be dependent on the actions of

Congress.

38. During an average year, Congress passes

\_\_\_ bills.

(A) between 50 and 100

(B) between 200 and 300

(C) between 400 and 600

(D) over one thousand

(E) over six thousand

39. Wars have generally caused the federal

bureaucracy to

(A) become more decentralized.

(B) shrink in size, but increase in

efficiency.

(C) respond more quickly, but make

inefficient decisions.

(D) increase in size.

(E) neutralize the power of Congress

40. A steady transfer of federal jobs from

the patronage to the merit system was

initiated by the passage of the

(A) Seventeenth Amendment.

(B) Eighteenth Amendment.

(C) Pendleton Act.

(D) Hatch Act.

(E) Civil Service Reform Act.

41. \_\_\_\_\_\_ was the last president *not* to use

public opinion polls.

(A) Woodrow Wilson

(B) Herbert Hoover

(C) John F. Kennedy

(D) Franklin Roosevelt

(E) Harry Truman

42. What percentage of appeals court cases

are rejected by the Supreme Court?

(A) 1 or 2 percent

(B) 20 percent

(C) 30 percent

(D) 50 percent

(E) 99 percent

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43. *Roe v. Wade* held that the state may ban

abortions

(A) in the first trimester.

(B) in the second trimester.

(C) in the third trimester.

(D) at any point in the pregnancy.

(E) in cases involving rape or incest.

44. In 1974, the Supreme Court discouraged

class action suits by requiring

(A) lawyers to provide at least 20 *amicus*

briefs supporting their claims.

(B) a special panel of judges to review

all such suits.

(C) each suit to impact at least 300,000

persons.

(D) all fees in such suits be initially

shifted to plaintiffs.

(E) every ascertainable member of a

class be individually notified of a

suit.

45. A political question is a matter

(A) involving voters.

(B) that the Constitution has left to

another branch of government.

(C) that an elected state judge has dealt

with.

(D) that causes conflict among average

voters.

(E) that must be first acted on by

Congress.

46. Which of the following is a major

restraint on the influence of federal

judges?

(A) Politics, especially the results of

recent elections.

(B) Rule 17.

(C) The lack of effective enforcement

power.

(D) The veto power of the president.

(E) International law.

47. The First Amendment was not made

applicable to the states via the

Fourteenth Amendment until the

(A) 1920s

(B) 1930s

(C) 1940s

(D) 1950s

(E) 1970s

48. Among the remedies for past

discrimination in school assignment, the

Court will allow

(A) racial quotas in the assignment of

teachers.

(B) racial quotas in the assignment of

students.

(C) redrawn district lines.

(D) court-ordered busing.

(E) all of the above.

49. Under existing law, persons born after

1959 can receive full or partial Social

Security benefits when they turn

(A) 60

(B) 65

(C) 67

(D) 70

(E) 75

50. Over the years, AFDC recipients were

eligible for what new program?

(A) Medicare

(B) Earned Income Tax Credit

(C) Unemployment compensation

(D) Private School Voucher Program

(E) Workman’s compensation

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51. A state cannot require you to send your

children to public schools beyond the \_\_

grade.

(A) fifth

(B) sixth

(C) seventh

(D) eighth

(E) tenth

52. The definition of what is obscene and

therefore not a form of protected speech

(A) is left almost entirely up to localities.

(B) can be decided by localities but only

within narrow limits.

(C) is finely detailed in the Court’s

decision in the *Roth* case.

(D) has to be decided by the Supreme

Court pretty much a case-by-case

basis.

(E) has to be decided by the Supreme

Court on the basis of reasonably

clear guidelines.

53. The most far reaching civil rights act

was passed in

(A) 1957.

(B) 1960.

(C) 1964.

(D) 1965.

(E) 1968.

54. The Secretary of Treasury is expected to

argue the point of view of

(A) the financial community.

(B) Congress.

(C) the president.

(D) industrial leaders.

(E) taxpayers.

55. The Congressional Budget Act of 1974

was intended to

(A) impose some budget discipline on

communities.

(B) increase the power of the president.

(C) allow interest groups more access to

the budget process.

(D) implement zero-based budgeting.

(E) invite members of Congress to

allocate funds in creative ways.

56. When Clinton became president in 1992,

he brought with him advisors who were

drawn from the ranks of those who

believed in

(A) isolationism.

(B) containment.

(C) disengagement.

(D) the human rights perspective.

(E) antiappeasement.

57. In Afghanistan and Iraq, there has been

conflict between

(A) the Army and the Marines.

(B) the Army and the State Department.

(C) the State Department and the Army

Departments.

(D) military leaders and members of the

news media.

(E) full and part-time members of the

military.

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58. Which of the following statements best

characterizes the motives of the Framers

of the U.S. Constitution?

(A) Most Framers voted for or against

the U.S. Constitution on the basis of

how it affected them financially.

(B) Most Framers voted along class lines.

(C) Most Framers acted out of self-

interest, not out of a sense of

political virtue.

(D) Most Framers acted out of loyalty to

their state, not out of personal

business interests.

(E) Most Framers displayed little loyalty

to their state and a great deal of

affection toward each other.

59. Remarkable among U.S. citizens is their

low degree of

(A) class consciousness.

(B) acquisitiveness.

(C) competitiveness.

(D) nationalism.

(E) capitalist instinct.

60. One advantage that incumbents always

have over challengers is

(A) their larger share of federal

campaign monies.

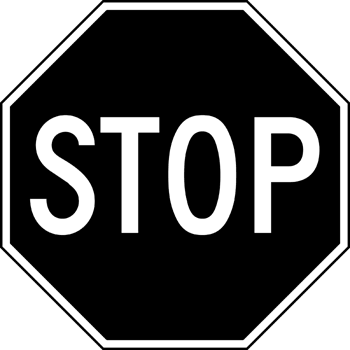
(B) the political advantage of riding the

president’s coattails.

(C) their use of free mailings, or franks.

(D) their freedom from FEC regulations.

(E) B and D.



**STOP. YOU MAY NOT GO ANY FURTHER.**

Wait for your instructor to give you further directions,

or you may go back and check your answers **for this section only.**

AP GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Section II

Time—100 minutes

4 Questions

**Directions:** Complete the following free-response questions. Each question should take approximately one-fourth of the time (25 minutes). Be sure to answer all parts of the questions with explanations or examples where appropriate.

1. A veto is the power of one branch in the U.S. government to cancel out or postpone the actions

or rulings of another branch of the government.

* Veto message
* Pocket veto
* Line-item veto

(a) Looking at three types of vetoes, choose two and explain how they work.

(b) Choose two of the three types of vetoes that you think is the most effective and explain

why you think so.

2. There are many factors of politics in the United States.

(a) Do you believe that the national media has a strong effect on politics in America?

Why or why not?

(b) Which type of media do you think is the most popular kind of media (for informing

citizens) in America? Explain your reasoning.

(c) Choose three types of media types listed below and explain how they contribute to giving

the political news of America to the nation.

* Internet
* Radio
* Newspaper
* Television

3. The United States Constitution has endured for more than two centuries as the framework of

government. However, the meaning of the Constitution has been changed both by formal and

informal methods.

(a) Identify two formal methods for adding amendments to the Constitution.

(b) Describe two informal methods that have been used to change the meaning of the

Constitution. Provide one specific example for each informal method you described.

(c) Explain why informal methods are used more often than the formal amendment process.

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4. In this cartoon depicted below, you can see an “animated” version of President Obama trying

to get his bills passed.

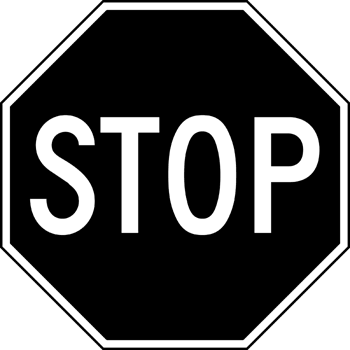
(a) Do you think this is accurate for the times?

(b) Explain how you think a split Congress can make it more difficult for a President to get a

bill passed. What about a Congress that is against the opposite party of the President? Give

two reasons for each.





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